

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • FEBRUARY 2014

THE BIG CHILL

BLINDING SNOW, BELOW FREEZING TEMPERATURES HAMMER HIGHLAND

When the snows were blowing and the winds were howling, Councilman Bernie Zemen was where he always is a few times a season – a passenger in one of the street department's snow plows.

During one of the latest big snows that began Jan. 20 – and coincidentally dumped more than 20 inches on the town in a scant 24 hours – Zemen said the crews were tasked with the impossible.

"This season has been nothing like the last couple of years," he said. "This winter has been so snowy and so cold that it is nearly impossible to keep up. I honestly cannot remember black ice this bad. What these crews do day-in and day-out is nothing short of amazing."

Public Works Director John Bach said the weather is a frustration compounded this year by a scarcity of road salt.

"We buy 2,500 tons of road salt each year. We had 2,000 tons left from 2013 and still have February and March to go," he said.



Councilman Bernie Zemen said he has great respect for our crews who work night and day in blinding snows and sub-zero wind chills to keep streets passable. [PHOTO BY BERNIE ZEMEN]

"Over the past few storms, we have been forced to prioritize salt applications to assure main routes were treated. We still have about 1,500 tons from our 2014 allocation on order, which our supplier has been unable to fill.

"In addition, road salt is not effective when the temperatures are too cold: it simply thaws a top layer, which refreezes into a sheet of ice."

MAKING WAY FOR OUR SNOW PLOWS ...

Town ordinance prohibits parking on the town's 32 streets designated as snow routes when more than one inch falls. Town Council President Dan Vassar said many residents are not complying with the rule, making snow removal more difficult.

"Clearing our streets during snow events takes a community effort. In order for Public Works to do its job safely and efficiently, we need cooperation from our residents," he said.

"Our crews work around the clock to clear roads, but their jobs become more time consuming and challenging when cars are parked on the street."

Building Commissioner Ken Mika said town ordinance allows fines of \$75 per vehicle and towing fees at the owner's expense.

"We don't like to take this action," Mika said. "When residents don't abide by the rules, we have to do everything we can so that Public Works can do its job."

NIXLE EMERGENCY ALERTS

Alerts for power outages, severe weather and road closures are all part of the package when you sign up for Nixle Emergency Notifications.

The service is free and allows residents to create an account that provides secure messaging by locale. In the event of an emergency, police send out details via text message, email – or both.

To register, log onto www.nixle.com.

SHOVELING ASSISTANCE

Calling all those with strong backs and sturdy shovels. The town's neighbor-helping-neighbor snow shoveling program has many takers but not enough local volunteers willing to lend a hand, and a shovel.

"Some are able to pay. Others aren't," Public Works Director John Bach said. "But we still want to do the program, if we can get volunteers to make it work."

WANT TO HELP? Interested volunteers should call John Bach at (219) 972-5069.

AVOIDING POTHOLES

Winter storms and arctic temperatures are taking a huge toll on local roads. Authorities urge residents to drive with extreme caution. If you hit a pothole on a state road, interstate or US route, you can file a tort claim for property damage with the state. Download a form online at www.in.gov/indot/2337.htm.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can shovel your snow but can't blow it between midnight and 6 a.m. There is a ban on operating snowblowers – contained as part of the noise control ordinance – during the hours when most people are sleeping.

CURBSIDE COLLECTION

The Town of Highland Department of Public Sanitation provides weekly curbside solid waste collection, each Tuesday for all single- and two-family residents and some quads by arrangement. The Tuesday pick-up day will be changed to Wednesday, whenever the following holidays occur on a Monday or a Tuesday:

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- Labor Day
- Independence Day (July 4th)
- Christmas Day

LINCOLN CENTER RENTALS

Need a room for a party or shower? How about a banquet hall for a wedding? From small gatherings to large receptions, Lincoln Community Center has the perfect fit for you!

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.



WARD 1

BERNIE ZEMEN
bzemen@comcast.net
(219) 781-1056



WARD 2

MARK HERAK
mherak@highland.in.gov
(219) 838-0126



WARD 3

DAN VASSAR - president
dvassar@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-1945



WARD 4

DENNIS ADAMS
dadams@highland.in.gov
(219) 923-8475



WARD 5


KONNIE KUIPER
kkuiper@highland.in.gov
(219) 924-7820

NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

Send your suggestions to:
gazeboexpress@theideafactory.us.com

The Gazebo Express is produced by:

The Idea Factory • (219) 779-9041
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by CJ Printing
9445 Indianapolis Blvd.  94
Highland, IN 46322

COUNCIL APPROVES \$1.5 MILLION TO BEGIN PUBLIC SAFETY SITE WORK

By the time temperatures thaw this spring, construction on a new public safety facility at Cottage Grove Avenue and Ridge Road should be ready to begin.

The Town Council has approved \$1.5 million in bridge financing to pay architectural fees, site work and the like until a \$10 million bond can be sold in late May or June.

"We expect to get a very good interest rate on the Bond Anticipation Note, which is the bridge financing, and the bond issue itself," Clerk-Treasurer Michael Griffin said. "Highland is attractive to entities that purchase municipal bonds, which makes me believe that our interest rate will be favorable."

To advance the project, Councilman Bernie Zemen, the liaison to the Police Commission, said Cpl. George Georgeff, Councilman Dennis Adams and Commissioner Jim Slagle traveled to Des Moines in early February to



Town reps traveled to Des Moines to tour the inside of a Public Works facility similar to what town leaders want here. For the outside of the building, the group likes the look of the Brenham (Texas) Police Headquarters, pictured here, which mirrors the design of Lincoln Community Center. [PHOTO PROVIDED]

complete a site visit at a police facility very similar to the one Highland intends to build.

"We've pushed back the date to break ground until May," Zemen said. "We have the last two houses to take down at the site along with pre-construction work that involves moving NIPSCO poles and taking out obsolete, underground lines before we can begin construction on the new building." 🐦

COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY EVENTS SEEKING FRESH IDEAS, ENTHUSIASTIC VOLUNTEERS

Every January, a hard-working group of residents plan ways to celebrate Highland.

From Fourth of July festivals to Santa's March and New Year's fireworks to veteran's memorials, the Council of Community Events was created to plan and manage events that make living in Highland that much more fun.

The Town Council is looking for residents who would like to join the group.

"Our Council of Community Events is one of the most active commissions in town," Town Council President Dan Vassar said. "We know how hard they work and appreciate everything they do. We are hoping a number of interested residents who have fresh ideas and an abundance of enthusiasm will step up and help us plan the best parties in the region." 🐦

INTERESTED? To be considered, residents must file an application — available at highland.in.gov — with the Clerk-Treasurer's office, located inside Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road.

2014 APPOINTMENTS

The Highland Town Council appointed or re-appointed the following residents Jan. 27 to the town's boards and commissions for 2014:

Plan Commission

Mark Schocke

Board of Zoning Appeals

Steve Mileusnich

Redevelopment Commission

Bridget DeYoung, Jim Kessler, Greg Kuzmar, Dominic Noce and Heather Peterson.

Waterworks Board

Keith Bruxvoort and George Georgeff.

Sanitary Board

Mark Knesek

Parks & Recreation Board

Nick Russo

Main Street Bureau

Kimberly Grasch and Tracy Oprea.

Council of Community Events

Sonyelle Clark

Our motto ...
"LET US SING AGAIN!"



SINGING TRI KAPPA'S CHARITABLE PRAISES

Wherever they see need, the 38 members of the Munster-Highland chapter of Kappa Kappa Kappa, better known as Tri Kappa philanthropic sorority, try to fill it.

Their work with local businesses, governments, civic organizations fill a vital niche, while members seek to enhance the quality of life in the region.

Every year the organization celebrates Tri Kappa week – Feb. 16 to 22 – when members recognize local businesses that have supported their efforts.

Highland resident Margaret Havens said her affiliation with Tri Kappa began a decade ago when a friend from church invited her to a meeting.

"I love being part of Tri Kappa," said Havens, who continues to volunteer for the organization's many activities in addition to caregiving for her mother and working as office manager at the Northwest Indiana Small Business Development Center.

"I do this because it helps the community and I enjoy interacting with the other women, who have become good friends."

The women range in age from mid-20s on up and become members after being invited by another member, just like Havens.

"We make the very best use of every volunteer's time and talents," she said. "We always find there is more need in the community than we can ever possibly fill but we enjoy doing all we can."

ABOUT TRI KAPPA

Tri Kappa is a philanthropic organization that exists only within the boundaries of the state of Indiana. Tri Kappa has 146 active chapters and 114 associate chapters with almost 9,000 members.

OUR LOCAL CHAPTER

Each Tri Kappa chapter has special projects in its community for charity, culture, and education.

The Munster-Highland Epsilon Omicon chapter supports many local charities such as Greater Hammond Community Service, Haven House, Hospice of NW Indiana, Hammond Warming Shelter, Tri Town Safety Village, Children and Special Advocate (CASA), Riley Children's Hospital, Camp Riley, Rock U'r Bra Off (cancer fund-raising event held at Growlers downtown Highland), the Highland and Munster police and fire departments (shop with cops and firemen) and scholarships for students in our communities.

INFO: For more information about Tri Kappa, please email mhtrikappa@gmail.com.

PARENT UNIVERSITY

Calling all parents of school-age children grades K-12! Join the The School Town of Highland Guidance Department for informational workshops designed just for you! Learn about study skills, financial aid, 21st Century Scholars, kindergarten readiness and more.

WHEN: 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, **FEB. 26**

WHERE: Highland High School

INFO: Call (219) 922-5613.

BEST OF HIGHLAND

The reservation deadline is rapidly approaching for this annual event, which honors the best in Highland leadership, excellence, beautification and achievement.

Vote for the Top Taste Award that evening for our food-tasting from these participating restaurants and businesses: Cakes By Karen, Dining Solutions, Dickey's Barbecue, Jimmy Johns, Round the Clock, Texas Corral, Theo's, Town Club and Traditions. Sponsorships available.

WHEN: 6 p.m. Thursday, **MARCH 6**

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center

TICKETS: \$40, cash bar

INFO: Visit www.highlandchamber.com or call (219) 923-3666.

DREAMS OF DUNELAND

Join the Highland Historical Society for an evening with local historian and author Ken Schoon, who will discuss his new book, "Dreams of Duneland."

Topics include fur trading and a small French fort, a military skirmish during the Revolutionary War, hermits and developers, explosions and scams, railroad expansion, flying, fishing, racing, relaxing, residing, the heroic efforts to save the dunes, and finally restoration.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Thursday, **FEB. 27**

WHERE: Lincoln Center, Rooms 108-109

ADMISSION: Free

INFO: Call (219) 922-1047.

INDOOR STREET MARKET

Escape the cold and stop indoors for your favorite breads, cheeses, honey, cupcakes, spices, pet treats and more.

WHEN: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, **FEB. 8.**

The market continues on the second Saturday of the month through May.

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

FAMILY SCOTCH BOWLING

Looking for family fun that allows you to spend some quality time together regardless of skill or age? In this new program, adults and children bowl as a team. Bumpers optional.

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays,

FEB. 8 through **MARCH 8**

WHERE: Plaza Lanes, 8101 Kennedy Ave.

FEE: \$36 / \$39. Deadline is **FEB. 7**

INFO: www.highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

NEW HIGHLAND BABE RUTH AND TRAVEL LEAGUE SIGN-UPS

It's time to register for the new Highland Babe Ruth and Travel League for the following divisions: Babe Ruth and Senior League.

BABE RUTH: Ages 13 to 15

SENIOR LEAGUE: Ages 16 to 19

WHEN: 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **FEB. 8** and **22**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

NOTE: Players MUST turn 13 by April 30, 2014 or 19 after December 31, 2013 and reside in Highland. Birth certificate and proof of residency are required at registration.

INFO: Call President Dan Vassar at (219) 924-1945 or e-mail highlandbaberuth@yahoo.com.

LITTLE LEAGUE REGISTRATION

It's time to register for these Little League divisions: T-Ball, Rookie, Minor B, Minor A and Majors.

LEAGUE AGES: 4 to 12

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. **FEB. 8** and **22**

WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

NOTE: Players MUST turn 4 by April 30, 2014 and reside in Highland. Birth certificate and proof of residency are required at registration.

INFO: Call President Pat Krull at (219) 924-5121 or email info@highlandll.com.

YOUTH SOFTBALL SIGN-UPS

Sport season is just a few short months away and sign-ups are scheduled for the following age divisions: 8U, 10U, 12U, 14U and 18U.

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **FEB. 8** and **22**


and from 6 to 8 p.m. **MARCH 4**


WHERE: Lincoln Community Center

REGISTRATION FEE: \$110 includes team-sponsored shirt. There is also a \$20 raffle ticket fee per family, which you can recover if you choose to sell them on your own before the season starts.

NOTE: Shorts, visors, and socks may be purchased at registration. All equipment is provided by the league except for a required glove. Rubber spikes are recommended, but not required.

INFO: www.highlandyouthsoftball.com or call 1st Vice President David Bedka at (219) 680-7729.





FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit Highland Parks & Recreation online at highlandparks.org or please call us at (219) 838-0114.

Basketball

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students attending Highland private and public middle schools are invited to participate in the Middle School Basketball League. League format will be determined by registration numbers. Everyone receives a team T-shirt. The first-place team receives champion T-shirts. Teams will be determined by player draft.

WHEN: 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesdays, **MARCH 12 – MAY 21**
PRACTICE BEGINS: First week of March
WHERE: Lincoln Center Fieldhouse
FEE: \$45 per person. Deadline is **FEB. 21**

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

High-school students are invited to participate in the High School Basketball League. League format will be determined by registration numbers. Teams must wear shirts with numbers. The first-place team will receive champion T-shirts. Players must sign up as a team; maximum 10 per team.

WHEN: 5 to 10 p.m. Wednesdays, **MARCH 12 – MAY 21**
PRACTICE BEGINS: First week of March
WHERE: Lincoln Community Center
FEE: \$325 per team. Deadline is **MARCH 1**

TEAM TOTAL FITNESS

Work out with a certified personal trainer to lead you through this progressive program that focuses on body composition, overall health and conditioning. Great group training for all fitness levels, including beginners. Within weeks, you'll notice a difference in your strength, energy and fitness.

WHEN: 7 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays
FEB. 4 – 28 and **MARCH 4 – 28**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Aerobics Room

FEE: Three times a week: \$75 / \$80. Twice a week: \$50 / \$55. Once a week: \$28 / \$30.50. Drop-in trial: \$10 / \$12. Members receive 10 percent off.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.

VINYASA FLOW YOGA

Vinyasa yoga is a series of smoothly flowing and dance-like poses that move you through the power of inhaling and exhaling. Physically, sweat expels toxins and re-energizes you. Mentally, the synchronized breathing relaxes your mind and reduces stress. Great for beginners and intermediates.

WHEN: 6 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays
FEB. 4 – 24 and **MARCH 4 – APRIL 3**

WHERE: Lincoln Center Aerobics Room

FEE: Twice a week: \$50 / \$55. Once a week: \$28 / \$30.50. Drop-in trial: \$10 / \$12. Wear comfortable clothing. Bring water bottle, towel and yoga block.

INFO: highlandparks.org or (219) 838-0114.